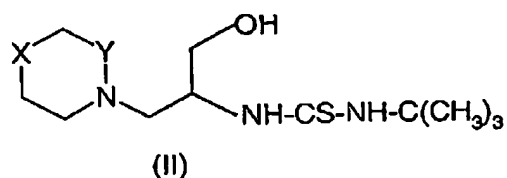


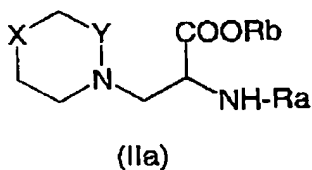
Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121IN THE CLAIMS:

Pleas amend the claims as follows:

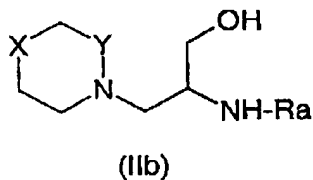
- 1) (Original) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula (II)



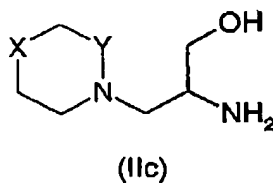
comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIa):



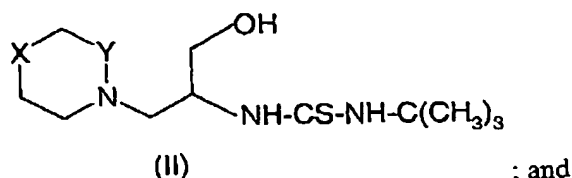
with a reducing agent to obtain a compound of formula (IIb):



reacting said compound of formula (IIb) with a deprotecting agent to obtain a compound of formula (IIc):

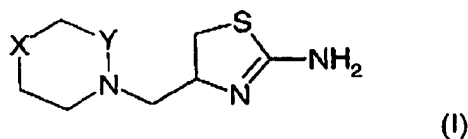


reacting said compound of formula (IIc) with *tert*-butylisothiocyanate to obtain a compound of formula (II):



wherein Ra is a protecting group of the amine function and Rb is a protecting group of the acid function.

- 2) (Currently Amended) A method of preventing excess NO production in a mammal in need of such prevention comprising administering to said mammal an effective i-NOS inhibiting amount of a compound of~~treating an illness, which involves an abnormal production of nitric oxide (NO) by induction of an inducible NO synthase (NOS-2), comprising administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of~~ formula (I):



wherein

either Y is (CH₂) and X is chosen from the following group: O, NH, N-(C₁-C₄)alkyl, N-benzyl, N-phenyl, N-(2-pyridyl), N-(3-pyridyl), N-(4-pyridyl), N-2-pyrimidyl, N-5-pyrimidyl, S, SO, SO₂, CH₂ and CHPh;

or Y is (C=O) and X is chosen from the following group: NH, N-phenyl, N-(2-pyridyl), N-(3-pyridyl), N-(4-pyridyl), N-2-pyrimidyl and N-5-pyrimidyl;

wherein the (C₁-C₄)alkyl contains 1 to 4 carbon atoms in a straight or branched chain; or

a racemic mixture, an enantiomer, a diastereoisomer or a mixture thereof, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 3) (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is chosen from the following compounds:

4-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine,

4-(piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine, and

4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine, or

a racemic mixture, an enantiomer, a diastereoisomer or a mixture thereof, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 4) (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is 4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine or a racemic mixture, an enantiomer, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 5) (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein ~~the~~an illness ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, cerebral, focal or global ischemia, cerebral or spinal trauma, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, migraine, depression, schizophrenia, anxiety and epilepsy is alleviated.
- 6) (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~5, wherein the illness is Parkinson's disease.
- 7) (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~5, wherein the illness is caused by inflammatory components.
- 8) (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~5, wherein the illness is caused by the growth of a tumor.